Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for coating a liquid composition from an applicator to a surface of a moving web, the web being conveyed along a path through a coating apparatus, the coating apparatus including a coating station for applying a coating to the surface of the web, the coating station including a backing roller for supporting the web and a coating hopper for depositing a liquid coating on the web, comprising the steps of:

a) wrapping the web in a partial wrap around the backing roller, the backing roller being provided with a relieved surface, the relieved surface having a pattern of circumferential grooves that provides venting of entrained air, the pattern having a geometry and depth such that any temperature gradient in the web caused by the circumferential grooves in the backing roller does not disturb the coating applied by the coating apparatus; wherein the pattern of circumferential grooves include greater than 1.6 grooves per mm. to 100 grooves per inch;

b) providing a source of an organic solvent-based liquid coating composition for bead coating the web; and

c) transporting the web past the coating station, where organic solvent-based liquid composition polyvinyl butyral in methyl ethyl ketone with a dye is applied in a bead coating to the surface of the web from the coating hopper, ~~without any electric field being imposed between the coating hopper and the web,~~ whereby the coating of liquid composition is not disturbed by temperature gradients in the web; and wherein the difference between the temperature of the backing roller and the liquid coating composition is minimized.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the grooves have a depth of 90 um.

5. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the relieved surface on the backing roller is equal to or greater than the width of the liquid coating to be applied to the web.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus for coating a liquid composition from an applicator to a surface of a moving web, the web being conveyed along a path through the coating apparatus, comprising: a bead coating hopper dimensioned for delivering a liquid coating composition to the web; and a backing roller having a relieved surface having a pattern of circumferential grooves that provides venting of entrained air, the pattern having a geometry and depth such that any temperature gradient in the web caused by the circumferential grooves in the backing roller does not disturb the coating applied by the coating apparatus; wherein the pattern of circumferential grooves include from greater than 1.6 grooves per mm. to 100 grooves per inch; ~~wherein no electric field is imposed between the bead coating hopper and the backing roller~~ wherein the difference between the temperature of the backing roller and the liquid coating composition is minimized.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The apparatus claimed in claim 6, wherein the grooves have a depth of 90 um.

10. (original) The apparatus claimed in claim 6, wherein the width of the relieved surface on the backing roller is equal to or greater than the width of the liquid coating to be applied to the web.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said liquid coating composition is polyvinyl butyral in methyl ethyl ketone with a dye.